[30th January 1931

Feeding of Adi-Dravida girls attending schools in Chidambaram Municipality.

*242 Q.—Swami A. S. Sahajanandam: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the Chidambaram Municipal Council, by resolution No. 539, dated 2nd March 1930, is willing to make a grant of Rs. 1,000 from its general funds provided the Government sanction the said grant under sections 48 and 50 of Madras Act V of 1920 for feeding indigent Adi-Dravida girls attending school;

(b) whether the Director of Public Instruction, when the same was referred to him, refused to recommend it in his R.O.C. No. 714-B/30, dated 8th July 1930, on the plea that the Labour Department may be asked to give aid to such hostels under private management while the surplus funds, if any, of the Municipal Council may be utilized for girls' education;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the Labour Commissioner refuses to make grants for feeding of such girls living within the municipal limits or three miles around it; and

(d) whether the Government will be pleased to issue necessary instructions with regard to the conflicting views of the two different departmental heads and to define its policy towards local bodies making such grants?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) There is no conflict of views. Government have no objection to local bodies making grants of the kind in question provided this is not at the expense of their legitimate activities. The Labour Department does not confine its grants to pupils living outside municipal limits, but preference is given to them.

Mr. C. Basu Dev:—"The answer given to clause (d) of the question is 'Government have no objection to local bodies making grants of the kind in question provided this is not at the expense of their legitimate activities'. May I know if the Government holds that feeding indigent Adi-Dravida girls is not a legitimate activity of the Municipal Council?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"Municipal councils have to make adequate facilities for the education of girls and when they cannot do that, there is no justification for utilizing their insufficient funds to aid other institutions."

11-15 a.m. Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai:—"With reference to the answer to clause (c), may I know whether the Labour Commissioner does not refuse to make grants for feeding the girls residing within the municipal area?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"He does not refuse, but he gives preference to girls residing outside the municipal limits."

Mr. M. Devadasan:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware of the fact that the Labour Department or Labour Commissioner declines to do anything within the municipal area of any town?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"The Government have no information."